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CIA Slashing Its Dirty Tricks Dept.

By FRANK JACKMAN

Washington (News Bureau) — CIA Director Adm. Stansfield Turner disclosed yesterday that he had ordered a sweeping cutback in personnel in the agency's much-criticized clandestine operations division in what appeared to be a major housecleaning move.

Turner, who was given wide control over all United States spy agencies by President Carter last week, said that he had ordered a reduction of 800 persons in the Directorate of Operations as part of a major "slimming down" effort to make the agency "lean and mean."

He refused to disclose the number of persons employed by the Directorate of Operations, but it is believed that his order will reduce the division by about 13.5%. Most estimates agree that the directorate employs about 6,000 with 1,800 of those listed as working on covert activities.

Last month, The News reported that Turner, acting with the President's approval, planned a high-level purge of the agency. One result was to force his top deputy, E. Henry Knoche, an agency veteran, into early retirement.

"New Organizational Forms"

At the time, Knoche hinted at Turner's plans in a statement to fellow employees, saying that "major change looms on the horizon" and that he had decided to step aside "to facilitate the director's task as he prepared to make decisions about new organizational form and the new kinds of leadership that he will need to carry out future plans." Knoche's resignation became effective Aug. 1.

Turner told reporters at a breakfast meeting yesterday that the reduction would be carried out "in as humane a way as possible." He did not indicate, however, that any of the personnel to be laid off would be offered jobs elsewhere in the agency.

Asked if only the Operations Directorate was affected by the cutbacks, Turner replied that it was "the part of the agency that grew so much during the ... Southeast Asian era (when the U.S. was involved in the Vietnam war) ... It did contract afterward, but we found not enough."

On other issues, Turner said that:

- He has been "distressed" at what was found when surprise security in-



CIA Director Turner
Wants agency "lean and mean"

intelligence estimates and those of the Defense Intelligence Agency. "I want those divergent opinions, and they will go forward to the President," Turner said.

- Other foreign nations besides the Soviet Union may be listening in on communications in the Washington area, Turner said.

Noting that the problem of Soviet eavesdropping on government and private citizens in this country is not solved, Turner said that "anybody, from gangsters to industrial spies to small nations and large nations, can stick up an antenna... so the problem is greater than just the Russian Embassy in Washington." He refused to say whether the Russian Consulate in New York was engaged in electronic eavesdropping.

spections were conducted at some outside firms that do work for the CIA. "I've made it clear to these contractors that any future contracts are going to depend on them making corrections," he added, without identifying any firm.

Turner's action in scheduling quickie inspections of the firms stems from the recent arrest and conviction of two young California men on espionage charges. One of the men worked in the security room at the TRW Corp. which is involved with several highly classified projects, and apparently was easily able to sneak documents out of the company's offices to sell to the Soviets.

- He will have the first say on what goes to the White House, and when there are differences between the CIA's